



United States Attorney's Office
District of Columbia

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, July 24, 2009

USAO Public Affairs

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Jury finds Washington, D.C. Man Guilty of First Degree Premeditated Murder While Armed

WASHINGTON - After a two-week trial, a District of Columbia Superior Court found Jeffrey C. Bright, 26, guilty of First Degree Premeditated Murder While Armed, Conspiracy to Commit Murder, Obstruction of Justice, and related firearm charges, for the murder of Deon A. Peoples on January 27, 2007, Acting U.S. Attorney Channing Phillips announced today. Bright will be sentenced by the Honorable Judge Geoffrey M. Alprin on October 9, 2009.

According to evidence presented at trial, Bright killed Deon Peoples inside the Kelsey Gardens apartment building located at 1512 7th Street, NW, at approximately 10:30 p.m. on January 27, 2007. At the time of the murder, Peoples was inside of the building gambling with two other men. Without provocation, Bright approached Peoples from behind and shot him in the back of the head. After the first shot, Bright stood over Peoples and shot him an additional eight times. Bright committed the murder because of an ongoing feud between 7th and 9th street "crews" in the Shaw area of Washington, D.C. Bright, a member of the 7th street crew, believed that Peoples was associated with the 9th street crew, which was responsible for prior acts of violence against 7th street crew members. Bright also felt "disrespected" because the victim was spending time in 7th street territory. In addition to the murder, Bright was convicted of Obstruction of Justice for his attempts to have witnesses at the crime scene lie to authorities by saying that Bright was not present when the murder occurred.

In announcing today's verdict, Acting U.S. Attorney Phillips commended Metropolitan Police Department Detectives Jed Worrell and Jacqueline Middleton, who handled the investigation of this murder, as well as Detectives Brian Wise, Dwayne Partman, Robert Arrington, and William Xanten, who assisted the lead detectives with the investigation and helped to secure the testimony of numerous witnesses for trial. He also praised the work of Assistant U.S. Attorneys Amanda Haines, Jean Sexton, and Fernando Campoamor, who handled the investigation and prosecution of the case.

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